



General Assembly

January Session, 2005

Proposed Bill No. 6584

LCO No. 903

Referred to Committee on Transportation

Introduced by:

REP. ROY, 119th Dist.
REP. ALTOBELLO, 82nd Dist.
REP. BARRY, 12th Dist.
REP. BOUKUS, 22nd Dist.
REP. CANDELARIA, 95th Dist.
REP. CARDIN, 53rd Dist.
REP. CARUSO, 126th Dist.
REP. CLEMONS, 124th Dist.
SEN. COLAPIETRO, 31st Dist.
SEN. CRISCO, 17th Dist.
REP. DAVIS, 117th Dist.
REP. DREW, 132nd Dist.
SEN. DUFF, 25th Dist.
REP. FELTMAN, 6th Dist.
SEN. FINCH, 22nd Dist.
REP. FLEISCHMANN, 18th Dist.
REP. FONTANA, 87th Dist.
REP. GENTILE, 104th Dist.
REP. GERAGOSIAN, 25th Dist.
REP. GIANNAROS, 21st Dist.
REP. GODFREY, 110th Dist.
REP. GRAZIANI, 57th Dist.
REP. GREEN, 1st Dist.
REP. HAMM, 34th Dist.
SEN. HARP, 10th Dist.
REP. JARMOC, 59th Dist.
REP. KEELEY, 129th Dist.
REP. KIRKLEY-BEY, 5th Dist.
REP. LEWIS, 8th Dist.

REP. MEGNA, 97th Dist.
REP. MERRILL, 54th Dist.
REP. MICHELE, 77th Dist.
REP. MIKUTEL, 45th Dist.
REP. MIOLI, 136th Dist.
REP. MOUKAWSHER, 40th Dist.
REP. MUSHINSKY, 85th Dist.
REP. NAFIS, 27th Dist.
REP. NARDELLO, 89th Dist.
SEN. NEWTON, 23rd Dist.
REP. O'BRIEN, 24th Dist.
REP. O'ROURKE, 32nd Dist.
REP. OLSON, 46th Dist.
REP. ORANGE, 48th Dist.
REP. PAWELKIEWICZ, 49th Dist.
REP. PERONE, 137th Dist.
REP. REINOSO, 130th Dist.
REP. RITTER, 38th Dist.
REP. RYAN, 139th Dist.
REP. SHARKEY, 88th Dist.
SEN. SLOSSBERG, 14th Dist.
REP. SPALLONE, 36th Dist.
SEN. STILLMAN, 20th Dist.
REP. TALLARITA, 58th Dist.
REP. TERCYAK, 26th Dist.
REP. THOMPSON, 13th Dist.
REP. TRUGLIA, 145th Dist.
REP. VILLANO, 91st Dist.
REP. WALKER, 93rd Dist.

REP. MANTILLA, 4th Dist.
REP. MCCLUSKEY, 20th Dist.
REP. MCCRORY, 7th Dist.
REP. MCMAHON, 15th Dist.

REP. WIDLITZ, 98th Dist.
REP. WILBER, 63rd Dist.
REP. WILLIS, 64th Dist.
REP. ZALASKI, 81st Dist.

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF HAND-HELD MOBILE
TELEPHONES AND HAND-HELD MOBILE ELECTRONIC DEVICES BY
OPERATORS OF MOTOR VEHICLES.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 That the general statutes be amended to provide that: (a) (1)
2 "Hands-free mobile telephone" means a mobile telephone with
3 speakerphone capability or an attachment, add-on component or other
4 additional equipment, whether or not permanently installed, that
5 when used allows the operator of a motor vehicle to maintain both
6 hands on the steering device of such motor vehicle;

7 (2) "Mobile electronic device" means any hand-held or other
8 portable electronic equipment capable of performing personal
9 computer functions, sending or receiving electronic mail, playing
10 video games or digital video disks, or taking or transmitting digital
11 photographs, or any combination thereof, but does not include any
12 audio equipment or any equipment installed in a motor vehicle for the
13 purpose of providing navigation, emergency or other assistance to the
14 operator of such motor vehicle or video entertainment to the
15 passengers of such motor vehicle; and

16 (3) "Mobile telephone" includes, but is not limited to, any cellular,
17 analog, wireless or digital telephone capable of sending or receiving
18 telephone communications without an access line for service.

19 (b) On or after January 1, 2006, no person shall use a mobile
20 telephone while operating a motor vehicle on a public highway or

21 private road unless such person is: (1) Using a hands-free mobile
22 telephone in a mode that allows such person to maintain both hands
23 on the steering device of such motor vehicle, except that this
24 subdivision shall not apply to any holder of a learner's permit or any
25 holder of a motor vehicle operator's license subject to the requirements
26 of section 14-36d of the general statutes; (2) operating such motor
27 vehicle alone and reasonably fears for such person's safety or
28 reasonably believes that a criminal act may be perpetrated against such
29 person; (3) using such mobile telephone to contact an emergency 9-1-1
30 system to report what such person reasonably believes to be an
31 emergency or the commission of a crime or motor vehicle violation; (4)
32 operating a school bus with passengers and is using such mobile
33 telephone to call for assistance in the case of a mechanical breakdown
34 or an emergency that endangers such person or passengers; or (5) a
35 peace officer, as defined in subdivision (9) of section 53a-3 of the
36 general statutes, a firefighter or an operator of an ambulance,
37 authorized emergency vehicle, as defined in subdivision (4) of
38 subsection (a) of section 14-1 of the general statutes, bus, school bus
39 without passengers, taxi cab or tow truck who uses such mobile
40 telephone while acting in the performance of his or her duties and
41 within the scope of his or her employment.

42 (c) On or after January 1, 2006, no person shall use a mobile
43 electronic device to perform any personal computer function, send or
44 receive any electronic mail, play any video game or digital video disk,
45 or take or transmit any digital photograph while operating a motor
46 vehicle on a public highway or private road.

47 (d) Nothing in subsection (b) or (c) of this section shall be construed
48 to prohibit any passenger in a motor vehicle, other than the operator of
49 such motor vehicle, from using a mobile telephone or a mobile
50 electronic device while the motor vehicle is being operated on a public
51 highway or private road.

52 (e) Any law enforcement officer who issues a summons for a

53 violation of subsection (b) or (c) of this section shall record, on any
54 summons form issued in connection with the matter, the specific
55 nature of any distracted driving behavior observed by such officer that
56 contributed to the issuance of such summons.

57 (f) Any person who violates subsection (b) or (c) of this section shall,
58 for a first violation, have committed an infraction and be fined not
59 more than seventy-five dollars, for a second violation, be fined not
60 more than one hundred fifty dollars and, for a third or subsequent
61 violation, be fined not more than two hundred fifty dollars.

Statement of Purpose:

To restrict the use of hand-held cell phones and other hand-held electronic devices by operators of motor vehicles.